

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

*Please insert the following new paragraph after the Title and before the first paragraph on page 1:*

-- This application is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/JP2004/010535, filed July 16, 2004, which in turn claims the benefit of Japanese Application No. 2003-199389, filed July 18, 2003, the disclosures of which Applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety. --

*Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 11 and ending on page 8, line 21 with the following:*

In the light of the actual state, the present inventors proposed a Cd-free electrical contact excellent particularly in weld resistance and temperature characteristics suitable for these breakers in Japanese Patent Application ~~2001~~ 2002-011121. However, since as a new specification of electrical apparatus, an electrical contact having a small abrasion and an excellent electrical insulation in actual use while sacrificing somewhat weld resistance and temperature characteristics has been demanded as well, a new material on the same material base as that of the aforementioned patent has been studied. As a result, the present invention has been worked out.

*Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 15 and ending on page 16, line 24 with the following:*

There are some electrical apparatus for which the electrical contact of the present invention can be fairly used depending on the specification, and specific examples thereof include those having a rated current of 30 A or less and a breaking current of 2.5 kA or less, but they sometimes have a relatively high load and a small contact size. By the way, the tendency of contact is for smaller size and thickness. In the case of such an apparatus, the contact is required to have good weld resistance and temperature characteristics and, even more, good consumption resistance and insulating properties. In general, this kind of an apparatus (breaker) is often designed to eliminate risk in temperature characteristics or weld by disposing a mechanism for relatively increasing the force of peeling the contacts off each other or an arc-suppressing mechanism or by increasing the diameter of the base metal or lead wire to enhance heat radiation. In this case, the electrical contact of the present invention is more advantageous in actual use than one disclosed in Japanese Patent Application 2002-011121 ~~01121~~. By the way, even the apparatus having such a specification cannot sufficiently attain the performance characteristic to contact unless the contact which is most suitable among the aforementioned various forms is used according to the detailed specification. It is therefore necessary that the aforementioned electrical contacts having different forms be used properly according to the difference in the form of assembly in which the contact is mounted or the specification such as rated capacity of electrical apparatus. In the electrical contact having a two-layer structure of the present invention, the proper formulation of additive components in the surface and the interior, the thickness of the surface and the proper hardness balance of the two layers are controlled as

mentioned above to enhance the hardness of both the surface and the interior more than ever in particular. In this arrangement, the electrical contact of the present invention is suitable for higher load electrical apparatus which are required to have consumption resistance and insulating properties and even a small dispersion in actual use.